

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

10,000 WILL BE IDLE IN CITY; FACTORIES ARE WITHOUT COAL

CIVIL WARFARE IS RAMPANT IN SIBERIA; THE COSSACKS AND RED GUARDS FIGHTING

Bolshevik Forces Kill French Consular Agent and Other Foreigners and Set Irkutsk Afire—Women and Children Murdered in Streets—Lloyd-George to Answer Austro-German Peace Offer and Conference With Clemenceau—British Destroy Five Hun Planes.

Peking, Sunday, Dec. 30.—Civil war is in progress at Irkutsk, in eastern Siberia on the Trans-Siberian railroad, and in surrounding districts. The town was set on fire by Red Guards after they had killed the French consular agent and three other Frenchmen. Many persons, including women and children, are being murdered, and street fighting is under way.

The Bolsheviks continue to receive reinforcements and ammunition from Krasnoyarsk. The Cossacks are offering determined opposition to the Red guard. The Siberian railroad guards are outnumbered and are being killed or driven from their posts. Communication with Petrograd has been cut off.

Bolshevik uprisings have occurred at Tobitsk and Verkhne Uinsk, both of which towns are on the Trans-Siberian railroad. Harbin is quiet with the Chinese in full control. They are guarding the banks, stores and railroads.

London, Dec. 31.—The Manchester Guardian says it is the intention of the British government, when the Austro-German terms of peace are presented officially, to return a serious and reasoned reply. Premier Lloyd-George has arranged to visit France, according to the newspaper, to confer with Premier Clemenceau on this subject.

The Austro-German peace terms referred to are those presented by the representatives of the Central powers at the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. These negotiations were interrupted for 10 days to give the Entente allies opportunity to state whether they would join in them. The principal point in the Austro-German outline of peace terms was acceptance of the Russian formula of no annexation or indemnities.

London, Dec. 31.—Five German aeroplanes were destroyed or put out of action Saturday by the British, who lost one of theirs.

Two hostile machines were brought down in our lines on Saturday," says an official statement here. "A third was brought down in the enemy's lines. Two other hostile machines were driven down out of control."

CAPT. PLATT AVERTS SERIOUS ACCIDENT

His good fortune in having reached the scene of the fire and slowed down saved Daniel Donahue, driver of Engine No. 10, from being seriously injured, this morning, when he was thrown from his seat while responding to an alarm from Box 457.

Donahue landed in a heap of snow, and escaped with a mere bruise on his elbow. He fell from the engine when it crossed a bumper in the road and one of the horses stumbled, dragging him out of his seat. Captain Platt, of Engine Company No. 2, stopped the horses, and Donahue resumed his seat.

The fire was at 487 Helen street, where someone had been searching in a closet with lighted matches. Damage amounted to about \$50.

O'NEILL CASE IS AGAIN CONTINUED

(Special to The Farmer.)
Hartford, Dec. 31.—The case against Dennis O'Neill of Bridgeport, charged with conspiracy in connection with cashing a money order, came up today but was postponed until Wednesday, because not more than half the jury were in attendance. The cold weather delayed the appearance of the jury.

John Baryshak, chief witness for the state, who was missing, when the case came up last week, was on hand this morning. He was found in New York, through the activity of men connected with the office of Federal District Attorney Thomas J. Spellacy. It has not yet appeared whether charges of tampering with a witness for the United States will be made against anybody. This is a serious charge.

Farmer Readers, Your Attention! An Announcement.

With the advent of the New Year, this newspaper will be published tomorrow and hereafter under the new name of the Bridgeport Times and Farmer.

DR. F. M. WILSON, EYE SPECIALIST, DIES IN PANAMA

Dr. Frederick M. Wilson died suddenly from heart failure at Colon, Panama, today, according to a telegram received here today. At the Bridgeport hospital, of which institution the deceased was president. The death of Dr. Wilson comes as a great shock to the medical fraternity of this city, as when he left about three weeks ago he appeared to be in perfect health.

Dr. Wilson was recognized as one of the foremost eye specialists in the United States and his ability was known in many foreign countries. He graduated and was awarded a degree at Colby University, Maine, in 1871, and graduated from Harvard University in 1875.

About three weeks ago Dr. Wilson obtained passports in this city for himself and daughter, Helen B. Wilson, to go to Panama, where several days ago the latter was married to James Robertson Murray, British consul of Colon. The wedding was one of the most important social events in Colon for several months.

MEASLES VICTIM IS ADMITTED TO CITY'S NURSERY

When nine-year-old Charles Plude, of 39 Hudson street, applied to the department of charities, several days ago, for help for himself and three small brothers and sisters, and was granted admittance for all four to the City Nursery in Fairfield, neither the boy himself nor the charities officials suspected that he was ill.

Yesterday, however, a serious situation presented itself at the institution, when the youngster was discovered to be suffering from measles, and to have been exposing the other children in the Nursery to the same malady.

Young Plude was removed at once to the isolation hospital for treatment, and precautionary steps were taken at the Nursery to stave off a possible epidemic of measles. The boy is not in a dangerous condition, and it is believed today that no harmful effects will be suffered from his association with the other inmates of the children's home.

WOMAN'S JAW IS FRACTURED WHEN STOVE EXPLODES

By the bursting of a water-back in her kitchen range, Mrs. Joseph Larsen, of Lordship Park, Stratford, was so seriously injured, early this morning, that she is now in the Bridgeport hospital and likely to die.

The woman is believed to be suffering from a broken jaw, and in addition has scalp wounds and painful burns and scalds about the body and face. X-ray examination will be made this afternoon to determine the true extent of her injuries.

New Year Food Head Message

**Wheeler Says No Cause
For Alarm Exists Regarding Food Situation If People Maintain Economical Measures.**

D. Fairchild Wheeler, local food conservation commissioner, in a New Year's forecast given exclusively to The Farmer for its readers said: "There is no cause for alarm in this section of the country as regards the food supply. There is plenty of food and there will be no famine conditions, or conditions approaching this state, if the people will not waste and if hope as a result of this statement, alarmist's reports will cease."

When asked regarding the profiteering among the dealers, both large and small, Commissioner Wheeler became very emphatic in his words and said: "As far as any official in Bridgeport can discover there has not been a single case of profiteering among the dealers and when I say this I mean that there has not been a single instance of complaint which has been backed by sufficient evidence to warrant me to even investigate the matter."

"If there is any profiteering among the food dealers it should be instantly stopped and the profiteers punished with the utmost severity, but what can any official do if some party calls up on the telephone to report either overcharging or hoarding when they are not even willing to give their own names or addresses."

"If any citizen of this city comes across a case of overcharging or hoarding it is the duty of that citizen to report the matter but in writing. His name will not be disclosed unless the dealer is found to have actually broken the law and then it will be only used to secure conviction in the courts."

While the representative of The Farmer was in Commissioner Wheeler's office someone called up on the phone and said his next door neighbor had a hoard of 150 pounds of sugar, but would not disclose his identity, so he was told he would have to make his charge in writing, whereupon the informer hung up without leaving any trace as to who he was.

GUATEMALA CITY EARTHQUAKE TOLL PLACED AT 1,000

New York, Dec. 31.—An estimate of 1,000 persons dead in the earthquake which in Guatemala City is contained in a telegram received here from the Central and South American Telegraph Co.'s manager in San Jose, Guatemala, who returned to San Jose from Guatemala City yesterday afternoon.

The message reads: "The legation and American consulate are badly wrecked. Forty per cent of the houses in the city are demolished; most of the others have collapsed and are uninhabitable. The penitentiary, asylum and ministerial buildings are all wrecked. The post office and large churches are demolished."

"Martial law has been declared and several looters have been shot. The president of Guatemala has ordered the inhabitants of the city to leave. Terrific earthquake shocks continue at intervals of about five minutes. The death toll is estimated at 1,000. All telegraph wires in the interior are again silent."

HOLYOKE MAN FINED FOR RECKLESS DRIVING

Upon his plea of guilty, Samuel O. Hoyt, of Holyoke, Mass., was fined \$25 and costs by Judge Frederick A. Bartlett in the police court, this morning, on a charge of reckless driving. Hoyt's automobile, on November 8, struck Mrs. Viola Martin, of 174 Brewster street, inflicting minor injuries.

Cold Wave Is Broken; 1 May Die

**Man Arrested as a Drunk
is Found to Have Contracted Pneumonia;
Frost Bite Cases Treated; Warmer Weather Tonight.**

The back of the cold wave is broken.

Below-zero weather, which has prevailed for the past three days, breaking all previous records and causing intense suffering and hardship in this city and New England is on the wane, according to the official report of the weather observer, and relief is in prospect for tomorrow. Warner, but cloudy and with probable snow, is the forecast for New Year's Day.

Bridgeport was severely hit by the exceedingly low temperature, which prevailed here since late Friday night, and today is feeling keenly the accumulated effects of its experience.

Hundreds of families have been without coal since the cold weather commenced, and this morning made vain attempts to obtain fuel with which to make their homes livable.

Appeals to coal dealers brought no response, and numerous applications were received at the Department of Public Charities from even well-to-do people, for small allotments of coal, but supplies were not forthcoming.

Several persons suffered physically both as the result of exposure and in consequence of their homes being without heat, and one man is today in St. Vincent's hospital, a victim of pneumonia, and expected to die. He is Leslie Slocum, a ship's carpenter, aged 33, of 431 Brook street.

This man was taken from the streets by the police, yesterday noon, and brought to a call at Headquarters, where he was locked up in the belief that he was drunk. Examination by Emergency hospital physicians, after he had lain for more than 12 hours, revealed his true condition, and he was taken to St. Vincent's.

Two frost-bite cases were treated at the Emergency hospital, Isadore Lerman, of 201 Capitol avenue, being the first victim. His ears were frozen, yesterday, and Dr. Frank E. Gavlas had to give him first-aid treatment to restore them to their normal condition. Albert Elwood, a trolley conductor, 18 years old, of 122 Parrott avenue, also had frozen ears when he applied for treatment, this morning.

The fire department bore a heavy burden imposed by the cold weather, responding to twenty alarms between the hours of six o'clock yesterday morning and eleven this morning. Not one of the fires they went to was serious, the heaviest damage amounting to \$200. Most of the fires originated from efforts to warm houses, thaw out pipes, etc.

Traffic of all sorts suffered considerably from the cold weather, trains being delayed and running far behind schedule—trucks and automobiles stalled and blocked in various ways—trolley service impaired, etc.

WILL CUT PAY OF R. R. HEADS TO AID LABOR

Washington, Dec. 31.—Plans for raising the pay of the rank and file of railroad workers and reducing some of the very high salaries paid to executive officials were discussed today at a conference between Director General McAdoo and the federal board of mediation and conciliation. The board now has before it the pending demands for wage increases, ranging as high as 40 per cent, for the freight brotherhoods.

It has been well known for some time that the government was disposed to grant some increase and the railroad men in turn have given their word that they will not attempt a strike while the government is taking hold of the railroad situation.

ESTIMATE BASED ON STATEMENTS OF FUEL BOARD HEAD--800 MEN OUT OF WORK TODAY--2 LOCAL FAC- TORIES ALREADY CLOSE BEING WITHOUT FUEL TO RUN-- SEE NO RELIEF

Eight hundred men are today without employment and in view of statements made by Governor Holcomb and Carl F. Siemon, chairman of the local fuel board, 10,000 Bridgeport munition workers will be walking the streets within 10 days as a result of the failure of factories in this city to obtain fuel with which to run their establishments.

Siemon stated today that the H. O. Canfield Rubber Co., and the Spring Perch Co., employing a total of about 800 men have closed down owing to lack of soft coal. To save fuel many of the larger factories closed their doors today and will not open until Monday.

No immediate relief is forthcoming, according to Siemon, and from all appearances Bridgeport faces an economic condition which threatens every phase of its business life. Governor Marcus Holcomb, now in Washington, aroused when the actual conditions were related to him made the following urgent demand to government officials:

"Connecticut must have coal or there will be no munitions. Thousands of munition workers will be walking the streets unless immediate shipments are made."

Siemon in an interview says, "The situation is most acute. It is worse now than at any time since this committee was established. The critical stage will continue through January and February. Manufacturers might as well get accustomed to closing now as later."

Holcomb has been in Washington conference with the Manufacturers' association, which is employing all possible influence to get relief but without avail.

The city's electric lighting system is in no danger according to Charles H. Paul of the United Illuminating Co., who today said: "We have about 8,000 tons of coal on hand and are getting it all the time."

The Remington Arms Co. and the American Brass Co. are the only big munition plants in the city which are not threatened by the fuel lack. Local manufacturers were of the opinion that the lee-bound condition of the harbor and the big quantities of ice which hamper shipping in the outer reaches of the Sound are in a measure responsible for conditions.

The 24 barges, however, were today freed by the tugs McCaffrey, Salutation and McWilliams, but the coal cargoes which they are carrying are not consigned to Bridgeport dealers and the towing concerns refuse to state to whom, or where they are bound.

It was stated that the immense quantities of coal piled along the Housatonic river's west bank might be utilized by some of the munitions concerns of this city. The coal is owned by the American Brass Co. Local factory heads this morning were anxious to know just how much coal was stored on the river bank and the probability of their obtaining some.

The Farmer got in communication with Charles F. Brooker, president of the American Brass Co. at Waterbury and asked him if he would use his good offices to alleviate local conditions. He replied as follows:

"That is a most serious question."

(Continued on Page 3.)

BRIDGE BUILDERS BRING SUITS AGAINST CITY FOR \$240,000 LOST PROFITS

Suits in which damages aggregating \$240,000 are claimed, have been filed against the city of Bridgeport by the Edward DeV. Tompkins Co., Inc., alleging that the city, through its agents, has forfeited contracts for the construction of bridges at Grand street and East Washington avenue.

It is claimed by the company that its profit upon the Grand street bridge should be \$90,000 and upon the East Washington avenue bridge \$23,000. It also claims to have expended upon the Grand street bridge \$160,000. Judge Carl Foster, of Foster & Morgan, represents the complaining company.

The complaints set forth that in May, 1916, contracts were entered into between the company and the city of Bridgeport for the construction of bridges at East Washington avenue and Grand street, the former to cost about \$143,615 to complete, and the latter \$210,125, with extra work to be allowed amounting to \$48,585.